

TOPIC: MASTER PLAN UPDATE

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I. SUMMARY

The purposes of this agenda item are threefold. First, it presents the CCHE's new statewide master plan, "Colorado Competes: A Completion Agenda for Higher Education," for official endorsement by the Commission on Higher Education. Second, the item presents copies of the most recent CCHE performance contracts, as prepared by the Office of the Attorney General. Third, the item presents a report of the status of campus-level performance indicators.

II. STAFF ANALYSIS

Master Plan On August 26, 2012, then Chairmen Percy prepared and submitted a letter to each CEO and governing board. In his letter, Commissioner Percy shared a draft copy of the complete CCHE Master Plan and invited comments from each governing board. In compliance with state law, each governing board was given 30 days to respond to the draft. On or before September 26, 2012, the Department of Higher Education received comments from the following institutions or governing boards:

- Colorado Community College System,
- University of Northern Colorado,
- Western State Colorado University, and
- University of Colorado.

In general, feedback from the campuses/governing boards was strongly supportive of the Commission's decision to remove specific metrics from the Master Plan and including them in each institution's performance contract. The campuses also expressed appreciation for the open and collaborative process that went into developing the plan.

In October 2012, Department staff revised the CCHE Master Plan according to feedback they received from the members of the Commission, and began the process to design the final master plan document (note: the costs to design the master plan were underwritten by a grant from the National Governors Association). In November 2012, the master plan, entitled "Colorado Competes: A Completion Agenda for Higher Education," was completed and printed.

At this time, Department staff present the publication, "Colorado Competes: A Completion Agenda for Higher Education," for formal adoption as the CCHE's Master Plan for 2012-2017.

Performance Contracts Four slightly different contracts were prepared by the Office of the Attorney General—one for public colleges and universities (excluding the Colorado School of Mines, the area vocational colleges, and the local district colleges); one for the Colorado School of Mines, as this institution’s performance contract is governed by slightly different statutes than other public universities; one for private colleges and universities that participate in the College Opportunity Fund (i.e., the University of Denver, Regis University, and Colorado Christian University); and one for area vocations colleges and local district colleges. Copies of these contracts have been shared with and are under consideration by all of the respective campuses.

The performance metrics discussed in the next section will, once completed, be included in the institutions’ contracts as “Addendum A.” In addition, contracts for public institutions will include an “Addendum B,” which will describe the policies and statutes from which institutions will receive flexibility. All institutions were invited to offer suggestions of new policies or statutes from which they would like flexibility, but, with one exception, none was received. However, Department staff recently consulted with academic affairs officers at the campuses to determine their preferences for maintaining 23-1-107 C.R.S. (Program Discontinuance), a policy that was nearly completely waived by way of the current performance contracts. All academic officers supported the full removal of this policy, a decision that Department staff also support. Therefore, Department staff recommends that the “Addendum B” sections of the contracts will simply roll forward all of the existing flexibility found in the institutions’ performance contracts, with the modest expansion of those sections related to the program discontinuance policy. As a result of the foregoing, in the very near term the Office of Attorney General will prepare addenda for the performance contracts. These contracts should be completed before the end of December 2012.

Contracts for private colleges and universities participating in the College Opportunity Fund will be completed in January. Also, because area vocational colleges do not yet participate in the state’s Student Unit Record Data System (SURDS)—but will do so beginning in February 2013—Department staff recommends that the Commission postpone action on contracts for these institutions until after baseline data can be produced through the state data system, or early spring 2013.

Performance Metrics On September 27, 2012, Chairman Kaufman and Vice-chairman Pacey prepared and submitted letters to each of the governing boards of state colleges and universities in Colorado. These letters were intended to inform the governing boards of the proposed performance contract process conceived of by the Commission. These letters also shared information concerning the CCHE “liaisons” assigned to each governing board (see the table below) and outlined a process for discussing and completing the performance contract process as is required by state law.

Governing Board/Institution

Adams State University
Aims Community College
Colorado Community College System

Liaison(s)

Happy Haynes, Jeanette Garcia
Dick Kaufman, Jim Polsfut
Patty Pacey, Hereford Percy

Colorado Mesa University	Larry Beckner, Gina Rodriguez
Colorado Mountain College	Dick Kaufman, Larry Beckner
Colorado School of Mines	Patty Pacey, B.J. Scott
Colorado State University	Monte Moses, Hereford Percy
Fort Lewis College	Jeanette Garcia, Hereford Percy
Metropolitan State University of Denver	Happy Haynes, B.J. Scott
University of Colorado	Patty Pacey, Gina Rodriguez
University of Northern Colorado	Jim Polsfut, Happy Haynes
Western State Colorado University	Jim Polsfut, B.J. Scott
Area Vocational Colleges	Monte Moses
Private Colleges	Dick Kaufman

Meetings among Commissioners, leadership from public colleges and universities, Department staff, and governing board members have taken place for all of the public governing boards. At the time of the writing of this agenda item, all but one public institution have completed an initial draft of performance metrics, and most have completed the process to the satisfaction of their boards. In a few instances, questions regarding performance metrics remain, but these are under active consideration and, we expect, will be completed very soon. In addition, all of the private colleges and universities that participate in the College Opportunity Fund program are in receipt of the revised performance contracts and the “performance metric worksheet” used by the state’s public colleges and universities, and meetings with representatives from these campuses have been or are being planned.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends adoption of “Colorado Competes: A Completion Agenda for Higher Education,” as the state’s higher education master plan for years 2012-17. Other topics described in this item are for informational purposes only and do not require action.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-1-108.